

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/729,758

Examiner

Wilson Lee

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/15/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2821

IDS

According to MPEP 609 37 CFR 1.98 (b) (2), "each US patent application publication listed in an information disclosure statement shall be identified by applicant, patent application publication number, and publication date". It is applicant's responsibility to provide a proper IDS form. Examiner is not obligated to guess a valid number of a reference that applicant intentionally cited.

In order to expedite the application onto allowance, Examiner cites a clarified reference 2002/0140373 in PTOL-892 in lieu of asking another IDS from applicant.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 1-32 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither discloses nor suggests the following limitations, in combination with the remaining elements as disclosed in claims 1, 5, 8, 14, 26, 31:

- a phase dimmer compatible circuit including an input rectifier circuit for rectifying an input voltage, a keep-alive feedback circuit for feeding back energy from the discharge lamp to the phase dimmer compatible circuit to support a high dimming operation such as required by claims 1, 5 and 14;
- a phase dimmer compatible circuit including an input rectifier circuit for rectifying an input voltage, the constant voltage supply circuit provides a substantially constant voltage of the inverter

Art Unit: 2821

- circuit and a voltage of the discharge lamp such as required by claim 8;
- a phase dimmer compatible circuit including a rectifier circuit adapted for rectifying a variable input current, a feedback circuit for feeding back current from the discharge lamp to the phase dimmer compatible circuit in order that the phase dimmer compatible circuit can draw substantially continuous current from the external phase dimmer such as required by claim 26;
 - a phase dimmer compatible circuit including a rectifier circuit adapted for rectifying a variable input current, a constant voltage supply circuit for providing a substantially constant voltage to the dimming control circuit, the constant voltage relating to one or more of a voltage of the inverter circuit and the discharge lamp such as required by claim 31.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1824.

Art Unit: 2821

Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The official fax number is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

5/1/06